

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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TO : CHIEF, WHD
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DATE : 01/30/1958
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SUBJECTS : WITHHELD
JFK ASSASSINATION
BIO INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT NUMBER HKHA-04193

DOCUMENT DATE

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FILE TITLE

Vairada, Arthur G.

FILE NUMBER

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ENCLOSURE

ABSTRACT
0601

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30 Jan 58

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VIA

A I R
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA-POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. HKH-A-4193

Field File No. 23-88/2-153

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD
FROM : Chief of Station, Habana
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational
SPECIFIC— Arthur G. VAIVADA

DATE: 30 January 1958

INFO: Chief of Station,
San Jose
Chief of Station,
Panama

References: (a) HKH-W-2380, 16 October 1957
(b) HRS-W-1326, 19 August 1957

1. In a conversation with the writer on 23 January 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. VAIVADA volunteered information that may be of interest to Headquarters in regard to paragraph 3 of reference (a).

2. When VAIVADA said that he hoped his wife's immigration visa application could be successfully processed at the time of his transfer from Cuba, Mrs. VAIVADA remarked that one reason for delays she experienced when she applied for that visa in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 4 April 1957 (see HRS-A-2938, 3 September 1957) could be a security clearance problem she had had in 1943 while employed at a U.S. Government Post Exchange in the Panama Canal Zone. When the writer inquired to what she referred, Mrs. VAIVADA said that her supervisor, the officer in charge of the Post Exchange, had accused her of being a Nazi sympathizer. When World War II terminated, and she prepared to quit her employment in the Post Exchange, she asked for evidence that she had been a satisfactory employee. It was at this point that she had difficulty in obtaining a statement to that effect from her supervisor, owing to his belief that she was pro-Nazi.

3. When the writer showed his surprise, Mrs. VAIVADA continued the explanation by saying that a color line existed in Panama at that time. She mentioned a ferry-boat connecting the Republic of Panama with the Canal Zone which she and one of her two sisters (who also worked in the Post Exchange) had used daily to go to and from work. White persons used the upper deck, "colored" persons the lower deck. She further mentioned that the Post Exchange maintained two payrolls, a "Silver Roll" for "colored" employees and a "Gold Roll" for "whites". Since she is dark skinned, her supervisor placed her on the "Silver Roll" and she had also to use the lower deck on the ferry-boat. Her sister, being blond-haired and white skinned, was placed on the "Gold Roll". That is, her two sisters having white skin, blond hair and blue eyes, were classed as whites while she was classed as "colored" owing to her dark coloring. Despite explanations of her family background made to her supervisor by her sister and herself, the supervisor refused to re-classify her. Angered at this distinction, Mrs. VAIVADA, who said she was something of a leader among the female employees at the Post Exchange, began a campaign among them to get their organized support of her cause. She did

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not mention details nor the success of this campaign, but said that it resulted in bringing down upon her head the wrath of her supervisor, who made an official investigation of her and had her reported as a "dangerous labor agitator having pro-Nazi sympathies".

4. At this point VAIVADA related that he was then courting Mrs. VAIVADA and had had difficulty with his commanding officer as a result. He said that one day, in an effort to clear Mrs. VAIVADA with her supervisor, he telephoned to the latter. As soon as he mentioned Mrs. VAIVADA's name the officer became agitated, warned VAIVADA to be wary of Mrs. VAIVADA, and repeated to him the story of her pro-Nazi sympathies and agitation activities. VAIVADA said he hung up and did not press the matter. He said that he had known his future wife long enough by then to be personally satisfied that the allegations against her were false.

5. Finally, in the conversation Mrs. VAIVADA said that her father and his parents were of German ethnic origin, and she demonstrated a knowledge of the German language.

6. The writer met and began working with VAIVADA in August 1955, and during this entire time the latter has never mentioned a former marriage of his wife. Having frequently seen and conversed as well with Mrs. VAIVADA since that date, it is difficult for the writer to picture her as having been a ballet dancer. She is under five feet in stature, is very plump, with thick lips and distinctly yellow-brown skin. Mrs. VAIVADA impresses the writer as having considerable shrewdness and, in his view, could conceal facts if she believed they would damage her husband, to whom she is completely loyal. It was evident from the above conversation that Mrs. VAIVADA believes her 1943 Post Exchange difficulties have adversely affected her immigration visa application. That she volunteered the information appears to be a point in her favor, however.

7. The matter of Mrs. VAIVADA's visa application deserves mention now inasmuch as it is clearly the VAIVADA's intention to re-open the application in June 1958, or at such time as VAIVADA's transfer from Cuba becomes effective. The writer cannot judge whether the events of 1943 have or have not prejudiced her application; perhaps Station San Jose can investigate to determine this. For Headquarters' and Station San Jose's information, the visa application was initially made by VAIVADA himself in Habana in February 1957. At that time VAIVADA named himself as his wife's sponsor, but the consular officer handling the case turned the application down owing to insufficient financial means on VAIVADA's part because VAIVADA was, for security reasons, unable to show his regular KUBARK employment and the more than adequate financial status he derives from it.

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VAIVADA then asked an intimate service friend of sufficient means, who resides in PBPRIME, to act as his wife's sponsor. The friend did so, sending the required affidavits to the Habana Consulate. Inasmuch as replies to consular queries sent to Panama and Costa Rica had not been received, and the switch in sponsors made by VAIVADA appears to have caused the consular officer some concern about the case, no action was taken on the application by the time VAIVADA was TDY'd to PBPRIME for training and had sent his wife and children to San Jose. This consular officer had a reputation for creating difficulties when none existed, and it is to that extent unfortunate that VAIVADA's case was assigned to him; he has since, however, retired and would have no part in this case in the future. Mrs. VAIVADA then re-applied for the visa in San Jose on 4 April 1957, as outlined above. Since VAIVADA is again planning to send his family to San Jose while he is carrying out his mission in Oriente Province beginning in March 1958, it is probable that Mrs. VAIVADA will re-open her application in San Jose.

James R. Palinger
James R. Palinger

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28 January 1958

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